## **Additional** Information

US DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy http://www.eere.energy.gov/

Energy Star 888-782-7937 http://www.energystar.gov/

Southern California Edison 800-736-4777 www.sce.com

Flex Your Power 866-431-3539 www.fypower.org/

Consumer Energy Center 800-555-7794 www.consumerenergycenter.org/

EPA Energy Portal 202-564-4332 www.epa.gov/energy/



### **Any Questions or** Concerns?

**Contact the Tribal Environmental Office at** 951.654.5544



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# Conserving Energy



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### **Energy Use**

Energy can come from several different sources:

| 2008 US Electric Power Industry<br>Generation |       |
|---|-------|
| Coal  | 48.2% |
| Natural Gas                                   | 21.4% |
| Nuclear                                       | 19.6% |
| Hydroelectric Conventional                    | 6.0%  |
| Other Renewables                              | 3.1%  |
| Petroleum                                     | 1.1%  |
| Other Gases                                   | 0.3%  |
| Other   | 0.3%  |

Source: US Energy Information Administration

Different sources of energy have different impacts on the environment. Most of the electricity in the United States is generated from fossil fuels, such as coal, natural gas, and oil. If fossil fuels are used up, they cannot be replenished during a human timeframe. Renewable energy sources such as solar, hydroelectric or geothermal use the sun, wind, and heat from the Earth to provide sources that will never run out. In addition to the continuous supply, these sources also have less harmful air emissions than the combustion of fossil fuels.



### **Energy Efficiency**

Using energy efficiently helps to reduce the amount that needs to be produced and lowers the negative impacts that come from power plants. For example, coal burning power plants generate an average of 2,249 lbs of carbon dioxide, 13 lbs of sulfur dioxide, and 6 lbs of nitrogen oxide for every megawatt hour produced. These not only function as greenhouse gases, but also can cause acid rain and health effects. In addition to air pollution, water pollutants, such as heavy metals and salts, build up in the water used in the nuclear power plant systems. These water pollutants, as well as the higher temperature of the water discharged from the power plant, can negatively affect water quality and aquatic life.

Many people think a requirement of conserving energy is buying something new or expensive but this is not true. If every American home replaced their 5 most frequently used light bulbs with compact fluorescents (less than \$4), we would save close to \$8 billion each year in energy costs, and prevent the greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars. Additional energy savings can be found without any kind of purchase and can involve using only what you need and making sure things are clean and running properly.

#### **Conservation Tips**



- Set the thermostat to 78 or higher in the summer and 68 or below in winter.
  Consider changing your clothing instead of the temperature.
- Turn off the light when you leave a room even if you think it will be only for a little while. Also consider if you could live without one less light or lamp.
- Unplug appliances or chargers you aren't using. Even if the item is "off" it will still be using some energy. Or use a power strip with an off switch.
- Change furnace filters if they are dirty.
- Replace old appliances with "Energy Star" models.
- Close the blinds to keep the heat outside in the summer and open them to let the heat and sunshine in during the winter.
- Check for leaks near doors and windows. Apply weatherstripping or caulk around them. Also check if additional insulation could be helpful.